

# C S F D *Fire Log*

City of College Station Fire Department Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

June 2003

## **COLLEGE STATION FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **LONE STAR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT**

The Texas Fire Chief's Association awarded the City of College Station Fire Department with the Association's second annual Lone Star Achievement Award. The prestigious Lone Star Achievement Award recognizes the best effort by a Texas Fire Department to provide innovative and progressive programs that directly enhance their community's quality of life.

The department's "Life Safety for High-Risk Residents Program" is a comprehensive community safety program that delivers both injury prevention and victim response services that can serve high-risk residents before, during, and after an emergency incident. For the year 2002, "Life Safety for High Risk Residents Program" included presenting a Senior Citizens Police and Fire Academy to 15 senior citizens, implementation of a Smoke Alarm Installation Program which made contact to over 7500 high-risk citizens, initiating a Neighborhood Door to Door Smoke Installation Campaign that made contact with over 1200 homes and apartments, coordinated two Summer Safety Camps for 213 elementary children involved with the Lincoln Recreation Center and Kids Club, completed and presented a Risk Watch, which is an injury prevention program to over 600 College Hills elementary students, and developed a Community Action Response Team (CART), which provides victim support during and after an emergency event.

The department received the Lone Star Achievement Award on Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> in Kerrville. The Texas Fire Chiefs Association is a not-for-profit organization with 500 active members who are comprised of Fire Chiefs and other Senior Fire Officers from all types of fire departments across the state.

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### **BRONZE STATUE – STATION TWO**

A generic gender firefighter statue was placed at Station Two on May 12. The Arts Council of the Brazos Valley under the direction of Dr. David Romei was instrumental in the addition of this quality piece of art to our community. This is a tribute to the fire fighting profession and the City of College Station Fire Department personnel.

### **ISO EVALUATION**

An evaluation of the department's operations, communication systems, and the city's water distribution system was conducted the week of May 1 – pump tests of engines and flows from the hydrants were also conducted.

### **FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM**

We have signed an agreement for a first responder program with the county volunteer fire department. They will have their own medical director, which relieves the city of extra liability. They will respond in a basic life support role for now. We will replenish their supplies used from the ambulance.

## SWOT

### STRENGTHS

Renewed emphasis on Core Services  
Public perception & satisfaction of our public  
Quality personnel  
Quality equipment  
Future facilities  
Director for our future (long range plan)



### WEAKNESSES

Number of personnel  
Number of facilities  
Lack of dedicated truck company  
Lack of positive revenue stream  
TAMU accounts for 30% of response area  
Lack of reliable funding

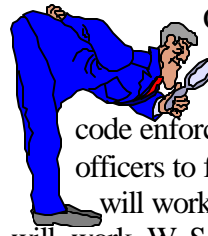
### OPPORTUNITIES

Community growth  
Citizen involvement  
Emerging technology  
Enhanced educational opportunities  
Potential increase for alternative funding  
Renewed emphasis on core services

### THREATS

Community growth  
Unfunded mandates  
Increased demand for services  
Domestic preparedness  
Expectations compared to capabilities  
Shifts in strategic priorities

## CODE ENFORCEMENT



Code Enforcement hours have been extended. As part of the Council Strategic Plan for more pro-active code enforcement we have moved two officers to four 10-hour shifts. Cindy Dillard will work M-TH 7a-6p and Emilio Sanchez will work W-SAT 7a-6p. Julie Caler and Heather Cruce will continue M-F 8a-5p. This was done to increase the days per week and hours per day we have staff in the field without increasing costs.

**SNAKES** . . . Snake (reptile), legless animal with a long, flexible body covered with overlapping scales. Snakes are thought to have evolved from lizards and share many characteristics with this group—particularly the so-called legless lizards, which have tiny, almost imperceptible legs. But unlike most lizards, snakes have thin, forked tongues, and they lack external ears. And while most lizards have movable eyelids that periodically close to protect and lubricate the eyes, a snake's eyes are always open, protected by immobile, transparent scales.

Like all reptiles, snakes are cold-blooded, or more correctly, ectothermic—that is, they cannot produce their own body heat. Instead, they rely on the sun to heat their bodies and then regulate their temperature with behavior. Because they do not rely on energy from food to generate body heat, snakes can survive on an extremely meager diet. Some wait for months between successive meals, and a few survive by eating a single, large meal just once or twice a year. When they do eat, snakes swallow their prey whole rather than biting off small pieces. Many snakes have specialized jaws that enable them to swallow animals that are far larger than their own heads.

The moral to this story...always look up when putting down the overhead doors...or go straying in the middle of the night.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - Black Out! - The entire County was in the dark for over three hours on April 15 – a tax day joke?? - No – it was the real thing.**

City emergency management personnel reported to the Emergency Operations Center in response to multiple issues dealing with the lack of electricity. Electrical power loss to homes and business, county wide, caused citizens and municipal workers increased pressure to preserve the safety and well-being of our fellow citizens. Traffic signals did not work, restaurants had to close, and emergency generators were in high demand. Our Utilities folks did excellent work in ensuring that special needs personnel were provided with emergency power. With television and most radio stations off the air, it was difficult to get emergency public information to the general public. Heavy use of cell telephones and landlines caused the circuits to overload, thus create another obstacle for emergency responders. 800 MHz radio communications and the 911 system were critical in handling communications during this crisis. Many valuable lessons learned were identified during this event, with many improvements planned to alleviate similar issues in the future. Thanks to all who participated in this real life exercise.

## CALENDAR ITEMS

EXTRACATION CLASS – JUNE 19, 23, 24 & 30 OR 31

PLACE:: CS EOC AND JUNK YARD

**HAZMAT OPS – JULY 14, 15, 16 8A-NOON AND 1-5PM\***

CSFD SUMMER “L U A U” 2003 – JULY 18 5-11 PM

PLACE:: SOUTHWOOD PAVILION

DRIVER’S EXAM – JULY 18 PLACE:: CS EOC

TRENCH RESCUE COURSE – JULY 25

ENTRY LEVEL TESTING – AUGUST 23 Place: TBA

HAZMAT OPS – AUG 4, 5, 6 8A-NOON AND 1-5PM\*

HAZMAT OPS – SEPT 15, 16, 17 8A-NOON AND 1-5PM\*

\*PLACE: AM CLASS STATIONS 1 & 3; PM CLASS STATIONS 2 & 4

## KUDOS

A woman called a few weeks ago to give her extreme appreciation and thanks to Bekah and the firemen who helped her – Chad Phillips, Kevin Stobbs, and Joseph Valdez. “The call taker was very helpful and without her assistance, she would not have been able to make it . . . the call taker said all the right things to calm her down, and make her feel safe . . . the attending medical crew did an outstanding job . . . they were very professional and extremely nice. Thanks team.

Cindy Giedraitis received a very nice thank you letter from Laura Mills at the College Station Library. Cindy presented a fire safety class and extinguisher demonstration for the library. “...the staff particularly learned more about how to handle a fire extinguisher and the video you showed was an example of how quickly a fire can spread...thanks for your presentation and the time you took to educate our staff.”

Cindy also received a thank you note from Lona Reese, a member of the Senior Citizen Police and Fire Academy. “I certainly enjoyed and appreciated the eight Thursdays; also, learned a great amount of information. The members of the group were all delightful and comfortable to be with each time. Please thank all of your associates for me.”

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - MARCH, 2003

Congratulations to Tim Hamff. He was selected employee of the month for March. “Tim has a full plate of assignments and always completes each and every one to the best of his ability and since he is a perfectionist they are always done right the first time.” Tim has also been tasked to develop and implement a new vehicle extrication program on the safe and proper way to extricate victims from vehicles with supplemental restraint systems.

Tim was also chosen Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2003. Keep up the great work.

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - MAY, 2003

“Since Linda was hired, she has proven to be a valuable asset to the Fire Department. She is more than willing to take on additional tasks and perform at the same high level of speed, efficiency, and quality. Her initiative and professionalism shine through because of this. Not only does she do her job well, she is constantly looking for ways to do it better and easier for herself and for the rest of the employees. She has shown a very strong ability to adapt to new situations that may arise. This was best demonstrated in the vital role she performed during the EOC activation when electrical power was lost.” Congratulations Linda Giffen on being chosen Employee of the Month for May.

## LET’S CELEBRATE JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Chet Barker	Eric Hurt
James Barker	Stacy Jeter
Matthew Brunson	Andy Jones
Andrew Byorth	Chris Kelly
Julie Caler	Nicholas King
Morgan Cook	David Moore
Calvin Deal	Christopher Pool
Cindy Dillard	Andy Ramirez
Stacy Ewing	Kevin Simmons
Bobby Fickey	Darryl Smith
Joseph Gibson	Louis Solis
Scott Giffen	Gary Stevener
David Giordano	Tom Thraen
Bradley Haggerton	Tim Valdez
Deborah Hamff	Richard Weisser
David Huff	Rick Westbrook
Bart Humphreys	Jimmy Yow

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH APRIL, 2003

“Whenever given a task he is always on top of it without question. If anyone needs anything, Moe is always glad to help out, both on and off the job. Moe is involved in the puppet team, assisted in the design and building of a new puppet stage, and has worked with Lowes to donate materials. Moe has a great positive attitude? Way to go Moe Sanchez – congratulations on being chosen Employee of the Month for April.

*The Mission of the College Station Fire Department is to provide cost efficient, high-quality fire suppression and emergency medical services while providing non-emergency services, such as fire prevention, public education, and code enforcement activities.*

## **STATION 1 UPDATE**

A punch list walkthrough of fire station one was conducted on May 13, 2003. Chief has not seen the final list that was developed. The Chief does not yet have a move time for the crews of station one. We will keep you posted as information comes in.

## **STATION 5 UPDATE**

An architect has been chosen for the building project on Rock Prairie Rd. Jon Mies has met with some of the shift personnel to obtain input on the design features.

## **MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING UPDATE**

Fire Administration has postponed their move to the municipal court building. We are still waiting on furniture to arrive. We will most likely moved around the end of June but that has not been confirmed. Will keep you posted.

## **GRADUATION**

On June 16, 2003 we graduated our forth Citizen Fire Academy class. I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to all of those participating in this program. Great Job!!

*Chief Giordano*

## **LIEUTENANTS ASSESSMENTS**

Congratulations to the firefighters who participated in the recent Lieutenant's Assessment Center. The following employees ranked in order: James Conner, Joe Don Warren, Matt Harmon, and Robert Mumford.

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

♥ ♥ ♥ Elephants are the only animals that can't jump. ♥ ♥ ♥

©© *On average, Americans eat 18 acres of pizza every day.* ©©

## **SARS**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have released interim guidance for ground emergency transport for patients. These standards are intended to provide for the safety of both SARS patients and EMS transport personnel. Our department personnel have been briefed on the standard protocol of handling potential patients, and adequate notification to the receiving facility.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT BULLETIN BOARD**

A city bulletin board has been established for general information produced by our employees. Your accounts should be active and useable to post items for sale, or general information whereby your fellow employees can pick them up, or share this information with others.

The site is as follows: [bulletinboard@ci.college-station.tx.us](mailto:bulletinboard@ci.college-station.tx.us)

## **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH COLLEGE STATION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

We are working to incorporate CSISD into a talk group on our 800 MHz system and also on our paging system. An interlocal agreement is being drafted. We will keep you informed as this progresses into a much needed interactive system of communication with our school system.



Lance Norgaard – married  
Jamie Lynn on May 10th

Mikel Reed – married Amber  
on May 10th

Kevin Stobbs – Niki and Kevin  
married on March 29

Darrin Allen – June 21 was the  
magical date for Julie

#### DO YOU REMEMBER – 1970

*“The city deserves our loyalty. It supports us and we support it. Our city needs and wants our citizenship, not partisanship; our friendliness, not dissension; our sympathy and understanding, not destructive criticism; our intelligence, not indifference.*

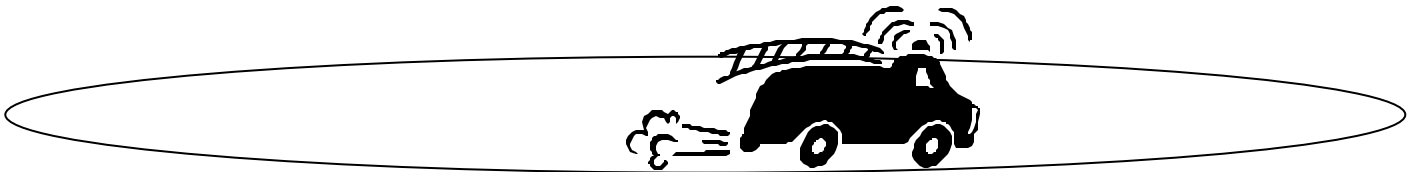
*The best, we should seek to make better; the worst, we should strive to improve. All in all, the city is yours and mine, and it is entitled to the best that is in all of us.”* D.A. Anderson, Mayor

## RETIREMENT

Jim Barker- Driver – Station 4 – has decided to watch more beautiful sunsets. Congratulations Jim on 17 years with the College Station Fire Department.

## RESIGNATION

Chris Beasley – Driver – Station 3 – has left the City of College Station after 23 years of dedicated service. We wish Chris the best in his future endeavors.



## NEW EQUIPMENT

On May 8<sup>th</sup> the College Station City Council approved the purchase of a 2003 Pierce Ford Contender Rescue Unit. An internal committee recommended this unit above others to contain WMD response equipment and supplies. This unit will be used in conjunction with a 32 foot Wells Cargo trailer pulled by a pickup. This vehicle system will be fully functional and operational to respond to a multitude of emergency event situations requiring protective equipment, and testing supplies. The supplies to stock this unit have been arriving through the FEMA grant funds.

## SAFETY

A safety committee has been established within the city to better identify areas for improvement of overall safety practices. The department safety team members are: Billy Bradshaw, Jerry Duffey, David Huff, Pete Moreno, and Mike Reed. If anyone has suggestions or identifies a potential problem please speak to one of these team members.

### DID YOU KNOW . . .

*Considered CSFD's most infamous grass fire – Willie Nelson's Fourth of July Picnic, 1974, at the Texas World Speedway.*

*From the First 25 Years.*

## NEWS Tidbits

- ❖ The second Taylor Made ambulance is now in Houston for a refurb exactly like the other Taylor Made received earlier this year. Frazer has given us a tentative date of completion of early August.
- ❖ Chief Hurt will be attending the third year of the Executive Fire Officer Program in July at the National Fire Academy.
- ❖ Twelve members of our department assigned to Station #2 will be attending a Trench Rescue Class during the FTS Summer School. This is the first step in a program to increase the level of rescue skills in our truck companies.

## FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT



New businesses opening soon:

Home Depot is in the process of stocking, shift tours are being set up for the first week in July.  
McAllisters Deli on University drive across from T-Bone Jones.  
Privett Dental at Rock Prairie and Rio Grande.  
College Station Municipal Court on Krenek Tap.

New Construction:

A&M Church of Christ is just starting construction on the bypass North of Westinghouse.  
Fox Run Condos and Champions of Luther (both by Melrose on Luther).  
Waterwood Condos on Krenek Tap.  
Chiptole's restaurant on University next to McDonalds.  
Retail center and carpet store north of Russ Welch.  
Gym north of Oakwood custom homes on 6 south.  
Brazos Valley Carpet Outlet on Old Wellborn Road south of Rock Prairie.

## WMD EXERCISE



What do you get when Brazos County is hit with a smallpox incident, two chlorine tanker truck explosions, and a rail car explosion? A countywide Weapons of Mass Destruction Exercise conducted May 10 - 11, 2003 by the State Department of Emergency Management and the National Emergency Rescue and Response Training Center.

Approximately 300 participants from some eighteen jurisdictions and departments worked through two days to bring the situations under control. A multi agency Incident Command Post was established at the George Bush Conference Center and all Emergency Operations Centers in Brazos County were activated.

As you would expect with this many agencies involved some of the lessons learned were: 1. Need to enhance communications between the ICP and EOC's. 2. It was very tough for the Incident Commander to coordinate with three EOC's. 3. Continued training between local entities and the Health Department is critical to a bioterrorism response. 4. More support staff is needed during a major, multi-jurisdictional response. 5. Local police and fire agencies worked well together. 6. The past efforts for Emergency Management Training and the relationships developed over time enhanced our ability to call on one another for assistance. NERRTC staff will compile a complete review and report of the exercise. We will share this information with you once we receive the report.

## SENIOR CITIZENS POLICE AND FIRE ACADEMY

Senior Citizens are at greater risk of injuries from falls, fires, and vehicle collisions. At the same time, they are also at greater risk of crime involving swindlers and thieves. In an effort to prevent injuries and crimes, the College Station Police and Fire Departments have teamed together to offer an annual Senior Citizens Police and Fire Academy. From the Fire Department: the program featured fire and fall prevention, fire extinguishers, hazardous materials, emergency medical services, emergency preparedness and terrorism, and the fire department master plan. From the Police Department: the program featured crimes against the elderly, crime scene investigations, traffic enforcement, personal safety at home and on the road, and the Police Department's five year plan. On May 22, 2003, 12 seniors graduated from the Senior Police and Fire Academy. Many of them have new smoke alarms as well as much more crime and emergency preparedness.

### **"JOB" VACANCY**

The Employee Selection Committee is in need of a volunteer to join their team. If you are interested please contact Chief Giordano. This committee meets once per month to select the Employee of the Month, and each quarter they select the Employee of the Quarter.

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# Luluau

JULY 18

SOUTHWOOD VALLEY PAVILION

FUN      FOOD      SWIM      VOLLEYBALL      HORSESHOES  
MOONWALK      DOOR PRIZES      T-SHIRTS

# 2003



## Council Planning Retreat

On May 15 - 16 City Council and City staff conducted their annual planning retreat to discuss and modify as necessary the City of College Station Strategic Plan. Purpose of the retreat is to assess where we are on our current strategic plan and where we want to go in the future as a City.

The City of College Station Mission Statement reads: On behalf of the citizens of College Station, home of Texas A&M University, we will continue to promote and advance the community's quality of life.

City Council Core Values are:

- Promote involvement and participation of the citizenry.
- Promote the health, safety, and general well being of the community.
- Promote fiscal responsibility.
- Promote collaboration and cooperation.
- Promote regionalism.
- Promote being active member of the Brazos Valley Community.
- Support activities that promote municipal empowerment.
- Promote Excellence in customer service.

We achieve the above mission statement and core values through four Vision Statements and their respective implementation plans.

Vision Statements:

Core Services

*We will continue to improve high quality customer focused basic city services at a reasonable cost.*

Parks and Leisure Services

*We will continue to promote a wide range of leisure, recreational and cultural arts opportunities.*

Planning and Development

*We will continue to promote a well-planned community.*

Economic Development

*We will continue to promote a strong and diverse economic environment.*

City staff is in the process of developing implementation plans to achieve those items set forth in our College Station Strategic Plan. As the Fire Department completes its implementation plans we will pass them on to all personnel.

## BUDGET

As you know CSFD has submitted its 2003-2004 operating budget. Base budget is essentially the same as this current year with requests for specific line item increases. We also submitted several Service Level Adjustments that will be reviewed throughout the budget process. As you know we are again very conservative on our revenue projections based on what we have seen in other cities throughout the country. There is still concern with the economic recovery, higher education funding issues, and an unstable job market. I will also remind you that there are no salary adjustments figured in to the proposed budget at this time. If you recall this was mentioned at our last shift meetings. Health insurance continues to be a primary concern for most everyone. It will certainly be a key factor throughout the rest of the budget process. We will keep you posted and updated as the budget process proceeds.

### PURCHASING PROCEDURES – REMINDER

Limit daily purchase - \$3,000 either single or multiple purchase, either FPO or Procurement Card  
All single purchases over \$3,000 including shipping, installation, etc. need three telephone bids with complete details, and dept head approval to process a Purchase Requisition and issue a Purchase Order to vendor. All large purchases go through the formal bid process. All receipts need processed through Payment Net (PN), Field Purchase Orders (FPO), or Purchase Order (PO). All receipts or invoices (not statements, shipping or packing slips) need to have the account number on it and attached to the PN Report, FPO, or the open PO referenced. Be sure vendor has correct contact name and shipping address. Please do not lose receipts and process as quickly as possible through the appropriate department channels. Any questions do not hesitate to ask Linda Giffen.